April 16, 1998

Ms. Robyn Currier DynCorp Tri-Cities Services P. O. Box 1400, MSIN G3-26 Richland, WA 99352



Dear Ms. Currier:

BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE 1100 AREA LAND TRANSFER, ECR #97-1100-003.

Project Description:

• The DOE proposes to transfer the 1100 Area and the portion of the Hanford Rail system between Horn Rapids Road and Columbia Center Boulevard to non-federal ownership. This ecological review is in support of the Environmental Assessment in preparation for such transfer, and this review does not address any specific disturbance activities other than the transfer of the property within the scope of the review.

Survey Objectives:

- To determine the occurrence in the project area of plant and animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), candidates for such protection, and species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, or monitor by the state of Washington, and species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- To evaluate the potential impacts of disturbance on priority habitats and protected plant and animal species identified in the survey.

Survey Methods:

- Pedestrian and ocular reconnaissance were conducted by C. A. Duberstein, J. M. Becker, and M. R. Sackschewsky. The rail line from the 1100 area to Columbia Center Boulevard was surveyed on 26 March 1998. The area within the 1100 area boundaries was surveyed on 27 March, 30 March, 31 March, and 2 April, 1998.
- Priority habitats and species of concern are documented as such in the following: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (1994, 1996), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (1997), and for migratory birds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1985). Lists of animal and plant species considered Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate by the USFWS are maintained at 50 CFR 17.11 and 50 CFR 17.12.

Survey Results:

Rail Line:

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- The majority of the railroad corridor consists of disturbed habitat, except for some remnant habitat along the margins of the corridor. The west side of the corridor from Highway 240 to Interstate 182 has been disturbed by the installation of a gas line, and has since been re-planted. The east side of the corridor in that area has some sagebrush and other native species present, but the general quality of the habitat is low and of limited utility to wildlife because it is located between the disturbed rail line and the Highway. The habitat within the corridor between I-182 and the Yakima River is highly disturbed. From the Yakima River to Columbia Center Boulevard the corridor is narrower (70 feet compared to 100 feet). From the Yakima River to Columbia Drive (through the Yakima Delta) the railroad berm appears to occupy the entire right of way and is colonized by sparse grasses and rabbitbrush. From Columbia Drive to Columbia Center Boulevard the corridor is highly disturbed, with vegetation consisting primarily of cheatgrass and other weedy species.
- A total of 69 plant species were observed within the railroad corridor between the south end of the 1100 area and Columbia Center Boulevard (Table 1). None of the species observed are listed as species of concern by the State or Federal governments. Thirty of these species are non-native to our area, and seven are on the Washington State Noxious Weed list, most significant of these are 3 species of Centaurea::Centaurea diffusa (Diffuse knapweed), C. solstitialis (Yellow starthistle) and C. (Acroptilon) repens (Russian knapweed), and Lepedium latifolium (broadleaf pepperweed).
- No migratory bird species were observed nesting in the vicinity of the rail corridor. A list of all animal species observed along the railroad corridor is provided in Table 2.

1100 Area:

- The predominant plant communities within the 1100 Area include Snow buckwheat, cheatgrass-Sandberg's bluegrass, Sagebrush, and Rabbitbrush, communities (Figure 1). Minor community types include sand dunes and disturbed cheatgrass communities. The sagebrush communities are for the most part degraded with large proportions of cheatgrass in the herbaceous layer. However, there are scattered patches of relatively high quality sagebrush habitat with significant amounts of native bunchgrasses in the understory including Sandberg's bluegrass, Needle-and-thread, and bluebunch wheatgrass.
- A total of 96 plant species were observed within the 1100 Area (Table 3), 33 of which are not native to South Central Washington State. This represents a remarkable degree of species richness considering that approximately 600 plant species have been documented on the entire Hanford reservation (Sackschewsky et al. 1992). The majority of the overall Hanford plant species richness is due to the presence of diverse habitats such as the riparian zone of the Columbia River and the higher elevations on Rattlesnake Mountain. Approximately 1/6 of all of the species known from Hanford were observed within the boundaries of the 1100 area. The only plant species of concern observed in the area was the stalked-pod milk-vetch (Astragalus sclerocarpus) which is on the Washington Natural Heritage Program Watch List, the lowest level of listing by the State of Washington.

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- Nine species observed in the 1100 area are on the Washington State noxious weed list, most significantly Yellow starthistle, Russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed, broadleaf pepperweed, and Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*). Most of these species occur in small isolated populations, but several areas of over one acre each are fully infested with Russian knapweed.
- No migratory birds were observed nesting within the 1100 Area at the time of the field survey. However, the survey was conducted prior to the spring arrival for many species and numerous species would be expected to nest in the area. A list of the animal species observed within the 1100 Area is provided in Table 4. Other species expected to utilize habitats in the 1100 Area include Loggerhead shrike, Sage sparrow, and Burrowing owl.

Considerations and Recommendations:

- No plant and animal species protected under the ESA, candidates for such protection, or species listed by the Washington state government as threatened or endangered were observed either within the 1100 area or the railroad right-of-way between the 1100 Area and Columbia Center Boulevard.
- Threatened or endangered species that were not observed during the field surveys that should be considered include the Bald eagle and Yakima River steelhead trout. Bald eagles are occasionally sighted during winter months in the Yakima River Delta but are not known to use the area for nesting. Steelhead trout in the Yakima River basin have been recently proposed for listing as threatened by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (63 FR 11798 11809, 10 March 1998). All of these steelhead would pass beneath the railroad bridge over the Yakima River during their migrations to and from the Pacific Ocean. For both the Bald eagle and the Yakima Basin Steelhead the continued use of the railroad corridor for rail traffic will not alter the current conditions and is not likely to adversely affect the continued existence of either of these species.
- The USFWS and NMFS have been contacted for information about the bald eagles, Yakima Basin Steelhead, and any other species that these agencies may be concerned about along the rail line or within the 1100 area. Other federally listed endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species known, or potentially occurring, near the Hanford Site include Columbia River Steelhead, Peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose, and Bull trout. These species are not likely to be affected by the transfer of the 1100 area or rail line.
- Therefore, no adverse impacts to species, habitats, or other biological resources are expected to result from the proposed transfer of the 1100 area and Hanford south rail line.

Sincerely,

CA Brandt, Ph.D.

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Project Manager Ecological Compliance Assessment

CAB:mrs

REFERENCES

- Sackschewsky, M. R., D. S. Landeen, G. I. Baird, W. M. Rickard, and J. L. Downs. 1992. Vascular Plants of the Hanford Site. WHC-EP-0554. Westinghouse Hanford Company, Richland, WA.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985. Revised List of Migratory Birds; Final Rule. 50 FR 13708 (April 5, 1985).
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1994. Species of Special Concern in Washington. (April 1994).
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1996. Priority Habitats and Species List. (January 1996).
- Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1997. Endangered, Threatened & Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington (August 1997).

TABLE 1. Plant Species Observed Along Rail Line Between Columbia Center Boulevard And The 1100 Area				
Code	Species	Common Name	Family	Alien / Native
ACMI	Achillea millifolium	Yarrow	Asteraceae	N
AMAC	Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Bur-sage	Asteraceae	N
ARTR	Artemisia tridentata	Big Sagebrush	Asteraceae	N
CEDI	Centaurea diffusa	Diffuse knapweed	Asteraceae	A*
CERE	Centaurea repens	Russian knapweed	Asteraceae	A*
CESO	Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle	Asteraceae	A*
CHDO	Chaenactis douglasii	Hoary false yarrow	Asteraceae	N
CHNA	Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Gray rabbitbrush	Asteraceae	N
CHVI	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus	Green Rabbitbrush	Asteraceae	N
CIAR	Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle	Asteraceae	. A
COCA	Conyza canadensis	Horseweed	Asteraceae	N
GRCO	Grindelia columbiana	Columbia river gumweed	Asteraceae	N
LASE	Lactuca serriola	Prickly lettuce	Asteraceae	A
MACA	Machaeranthera canescens	Hoary aster	Asteraceae	N
SEIN	Senecio integerrimus	Lambstongue groundsel	Asteraceae	A
Sol. sp.	Solidago sp.	Goldenrod	Asteraceae	N
TAOF	Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	Asteraceae	A
TRDU	Tragopogon dubius	Salsify	Asteraceae	A
AMLY	Amsinckia lycopsoides	Fiddleneck tarweed	Boraginaceae	N
AMTE	Amsinckia tessellata	Tessellate tarweed	Boraginaceae	N
CRCI	Cryptantha circumscissa	Matted cryptantha	Boraginaceae	N ·
CRPT	Cryptantha pterocarya	Winged cryptantha	Boraginaceae	N
CHTE	Chorispora tenella	Blue mustard	Brassicaceae	A
DEPI	Descurainia pinnata	Tansy mustard	Brassicaceae	N
DRVE	Draba verna	Spring whitlow grass	Brassicaceae	N
LELA	Lepedium latifolium	Broadleaf pepperweed	Brassicaceae	A*
SIAL	Sisymbrium altissimum	Jim Hill Mustard	Brassicaceae	A
SACE	Sambucus cerulea	Blue elderberry	Caprifoliaceae	N
HOUM	Holosteum umbellatum	Jagged chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	A
KOSC	Kochia scoparia	Summer cypress	Chenopodiaceae	A*
SAKA	Salsola kali	Russian thistle	Chenopodiaceae	A
DISY	Dipsicus sylvestris	Teasel	Dipsicaceae	A
ELAN	Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian Olive	Elaeagnaceae	A
ASTCA	Astragalus caricinus	Buckwheat milkvetch	Fabaceae	N
MEOF	Melilotus officinalis	Yellow sweetclover	Fabaceae	A
MESA	Medicago sativa	Alfalfa	Fabaceae	A

Code	Species	Common Name	Family	Alien / Native
ROPS	Robinia psuedoaccacia	Black locust	Fabaceae	A
TRRE	Trifolium repens	White clover	Fabaceae	A
ERCI	Erodium cicutarium	Crane's-bill	Geraniaceae	A
RIAU	Ribes aureum	Golden current	Grossulariaceae	N
РННА	Phacelia hastata	Whiteleaf scorpionweed	Hydrophyllaceae	N
ASOF	Asparagus officinale	Asparagus	Liliaceae	A
BRDO	Brodiaea douglasii	Cluster lily	Liliaceae	N
SPMU	Sphaeralcea munroana	Globe mallow	Malvaceae	N
EPPA	Epilobium paniculatum	Tall willowherb	Onagraceae	N
OEPA	Oenothera pallida	Pale eveningprimrose	Onagraceae	N
ORCO	Orobanche corymbosa	Flat-topped broomrape	Orobanchaceae	N
PLPA	Plantago patagonica	Indian wheat	Plantaginaceae	N
AGCR	Agropyron cristatum	Crested wheatgrass	Poaceae A	
AGIN	Agropyron intermedium	Intermeadiate wheatgrass	Poaceae	A
BRTE	Bromus tectorum	Cheatgrass	Poaceae	A
ORHY	Oryzopsis hymenoides	Indian ricegrass	Poaceae	N
PHAR	Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canarygrass	Poaceae	A*
POBU	Poa bulbosa		Poaceae	A
POPR	Poa pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	Poaceae	N
POSA	Poa sandbergii	Sandberg's bluegrass	Poaceae	N
SECE	Secale cereale	Rye	Poaceae	A
SIHY	Sitanion hystrix	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Poaceae	N
SPCR	Sporobolus cryptandrus	Sand dropseed	Poaceae	N
STCO	Stipa comata		Poaceae	N
MIGR	Microsteris gracilis		Polemoniaceae	N
POMI	Polemonium micranthum	Annual Jacob's ladder	Polemoniaceae	N
ERNI	Eriogonum niveum	Snowy buckwheat	Polygonaceae	N
RUVE	Rumex venosus	Sand dock	Polygonaceae	N
RATE	Ranunculus testiculatus	Burr-buttercup	Ranunculaceae	A
PUTR	Purshia tridentata	Antelope bitterbrush	Rosaceae	N
POAL	Populus alba	Silver Poplar	Salicaceae	N
VETH	Verbascum thapsus	Wooly mullein	Scrophulariaceae	A*
ΓΥLA	Typha latifolia	Cattail	Typhaceae	N

Code	Species	Common Name
	BIRD	S
IDE	Charadrius vociferus	Killdeer
OLA	Eremophila alpestris	Horned Lark
EME	Sturna neglecta	Western Meadowlark
WBB	Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged Blackbird
CSP	Zonothrichia leucophrys	White Crowned Sparrow
OFI .	Carpodacus mexicanus	House Finch
ODO	Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove
ODU	Aix sponsa	Wood Duck
ADU	Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard Duck
AGO	Branta canadensis	Canada Goose
ГНА	Buteo jamaicensis	Red-Tailed hawk
3MA	Pica pica	Black-billed magpie
OFL	Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker
NPH	Phasianus colchicus	Ring-necked pheasant
AQU	Callipepla californica	California quail
	THE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY	AT C
	MAMMA	
oyote	Canis latrans	Coyote
IUDE	Odocoileus hemionus	Mule Deer

TABLE 3. Plant Species Observed within the 1100 Area				
CODE	Species	Common Name	Family	Native/ Alien
	Cymopteris terebinthinus	Turpentine spring-parsley	Apiaceae	N
LOMA	Lomatium macrocarpum	Big -seed desertparsley	Apiaceae	N
ACMI	Achillea millifolium	Yarrow	Asteraceae	N
AMAC	Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Bur-sage	Asteraceae	N
ARDR	Artemisia dracunculus	Tarragon	Asteraceae	N
ARTR	Artemisia tridentata	Big Sagebrush	Asteraceae	N
BACA	Balsamorhiza careyana	Carey's balsamroot	Asteraceae	N
CEDI	Centaurea diffusa	Diffuse knapweed	Asteraceae	A*
CERE	Centaurea repens	Russian knapweed	Asteraceae	A*
CESO	Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle	Asteraceae	A*
CHDO	Chaenactis douglasii	Hoary false yarrow	Asteraceae	N
CHJU	Chondrilla juncea	Rush skeletonweed	Asteraceae	A*
CHNA	Chrysothamnus nauseosus	Gray rabbitbrush	Asteraceae	N
CHVI	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus	Green Rabbitbrush	Asteraceae	N
COCA	Conyza canadensis	Horseweed	Asteraceae	N
CRAT	Crepis atrabarba	Slender hawksbeard	Asteraceae	N
HYFI	Hymenopappus filifolius	Columbia cutleaf	Asteraceae	N
IVXA	Iva xanthifolia	Tall marsh-elder	Asteraceae	N
LASE	Lactuca serriola	Prickly lettuce	Asteraceae	A
MACA	Machaeranthera canescens	Hoary aster	Asteraceae	N
TAOF	Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	Asteraceae	A
TRDU	Tragopogon dubius	Salsify	Asteraceae	A
AMLY	Amsinckia lycopsoides	Fiddleneck tarweed	Boraginaceae	N
AMTE	Amsinckia tessellata	Tessellate tarweed	Boraginaceae	N
CR sp.	Cryptantha sp.	Cryptantha	Boraginaceae	N
CRCI	Cryptantha circumscissa	Matted cryptantha	Boraginaceae	N
CRPT	Cryptantha pterocarya	Winged cryptantha	Boraginaceae	N
HECU	Heliotropium curassavicum	Salt heliotrope	Boraginaceae	A
PLTE	Plagiobothrys tenellus	Popcornflower	Boraginaceae	N
CHTE	Chorispora tenella	Blue mustard	Brassicaceae	A
DEPI	Descurainia pinnata	Tansy mustard	Brassicaceae	N
DESO	Descurainia sophia	Flixweed	Brassicaceae	A
DRVE	Draba verna	Spring whitlow grass	Brassicaceae	N
ERAS	Erysimum asperum	Wallflower	Brassicaceae	N
LELA	Lepedium latifolium	Broadleaf pepperweed	Brassicaceae	A*
SIAL	Sisymbrium altissimum	Jim Hill Mustard	Brassicaceae	A

\9viteN n9ilA	Family	Соттоп Ияте	Species	CODE
N	Cactaceae	ьцскуй реаг	ομινιος bolycantha	AqqC
У	Caryophyllaceae	Jagged chickweed	musellatini musisoloH	
N	Chenopodiaceae	Spiney Hopsage	Grayia spinosa	
*V	Chenopodiaceae	Summer cypress	Κοςκὶα scoparia	KOZC
V	Chenopodiaceae	Russian thistle	Zalsola kali	f · ·
*V	Convolvulaceae	tield bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	RAOC
N	Сурегсеае	Zedge	Carex species	Ga sp.
N	Езрасеае	Вискwheat тілкvetch	Astragalus caricinus	_STZ <u>^</u>
N	Fарасеае	Stalked-pod milkvetch	Astragalus sclerocarpus	DSTSA
\forall	Е врасеае	Alfalfa	γεαίς αδο εαιίνα	
N	Еврасеае	Prairie clover	petalostemon ornatum	
N	Га расеае	Dune scurt-pea	Psoralea lancolata	
V	Еврасеве	Black locust	Robinia psuedoaccacia	SqOy
A	Гарасеае	White clover	znsqs1 muiloti1I	LKKE
<u> </u>	Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill	Erodium cicutarium	
N	Grossulariaceae	Golden current	Kibes aureum	UAB
N	НуdгорhуЛасеае	Whitelest scorpionweed	Phacelia hastata	
N	Нуdrophyllaceae	Threadlest scorpionweed	Phacelia linearis	HLI
N	Juncaceae	Kush	ds snoung	·ds ·n
¥	Гіјіясеяе	Asparagus	sparagus officinale	₹SOF
N	Гіјівсеве	Cluster lily	Brodiaea douglasii	
N	Гіјіясеве	Yellow bells	Fritillaria pudia	
N	Liliaceae	Death camas	snsouอนอก snuอpv817	IAE
N	Malvaceae	Globe mallow	Sphaeralcea munroana	
¥	Moraceae	Мијретгу	Morus alba	
N	Onagraceae	Tall willowherb	mnıqının banıçınıqı	¥dd∃
N	Onagraceae	Pale eveningprimrose	Oenothera pallida	OE b ¥
N	Огорапсћасеае	Flat-topped broomrape	Огорапсће согутьоѕа	OKCO
N	Plantaginaceae	Indian wheat	Plantago patagonica	Уд∏с
V	Роасеае	Crested wheatgrass	Agropyron cristatum	₹ GCK
Ň	Роасеае	Thickspike wheatgrass	шиудэгізугы полуцогу	V GDV
V	Роасеае	Quackgrass	y Skobyron repens	₹GKE
N	Роасеае	Bluebunch wheatgrass	Agropyron spicatum	dSĐ√
V	Роасеае	Cheatgrass	Bromus tectorum	3KLE
N.	Роасеае	Saligrass	Distichlis stricta	LSIC
N	Роасеае	Indian ricegrass	səpionəmyh sisdozyıO	JKHX

TABLE 3. Plant Species Observed within the 1100 Area

CODE	Species	Common Name	Family	Native/ Alien
POBU	Poa bulbosa	Bulbous bluegrass	Poaceae	A
POMO	Polypogon monspeliensis	Rabbitsfoot grass	Poaceae	Α
POPR	Poa pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	Poaceae	N
POSA	Poa sandbergii	Sandberg's bluegrass	Poaceae	N
SIHY	Sitanion hystrix	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Poaceae	N
SPCR	Sporobolus cryptandrus	Sand dropseed	Poaceae	N
STCO	Stipa comata	Needle-and-thread grass	Poaceae	N
Gi. sp.	Gilia sp.	Gilia	Polemoniaceae	N
MIGR	Microsteris gracilis	Pink gracilis	Polemoniaceae	N
PHLO	Phlox longifolia	Long-leaf phlox	Polemoniaceae	N
POMI	Polemonium micranthum	Annual Jacob's ladder	Polemoniaceae	N
ERNI	Eriogonum niveum	Snowy buckwheat	Polygonaceae	N
RUVE	Rumex venosus	Sand dock	Polygonaceae	N
MOPE	Montia perfoliata	Miner's lettuce	Portulacaceae	N
DENU	Delphinium nuttalianum	Upland larkspur	Ranunculaceae	N
PRAR	Prunus armeniaca	Apricot	Rosaceae	A
PUTR	Purshia tridentata	Antelope bitterbrush	Rosaceae	N
VETH	Verbascum thapsus	Wooly mullein	Scrophulariaceae	A*
AIAL	Ailanthus altissima	Tree-of-heaven	Simaroubaceae	A
LYHA	Lycium hamilifolium	Matrimony vine	Solanaceae	A
TAPA	Tamarix parviflora	Salt cedar	Tamaricaceae	A*
PLMA	Plectritis macrocera	White cupseed	Valerianaceae	N
VEBR	Verbena bracteata	Bracted verbena	Verbenaceae	N
VIVI	Vitis vinifera	Grape	Vitaceae	A

Table 4. Animal Species Observed Within The 1100 Area.				
Code	Species	Common Name		
	BIRDS			
WEME	Sturna neglecta	Western Meadowlark		
AMRO	Turdus migratorius	American Robin		
HOFI	Carpodacus mexicanus	House Finch		
EUST	Sturnus vulgaris	European Starling		
RODO	Columba livea	Rock Dove		
BBMA	Pica pica	Black-billed magpie		
AMCR	Corvus brachyrhynchos	American Crow		
LBCU	Numenius americanus	Long-billed curlew		
NOFL	Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker		
NOHA	Cicus cyanus	Northern Harrier		
AMKE	Falco sparverius	American Kestrel		
RNPH	Phasianus colchicus	Ring-necked pheasant		
GRPA	Perdix perdix	Gray Partridge		
CAQU	Callipepla californica	California quail		
	MAMMA			
DEMO	Peromyscus maniculatus	Deer Mouse		
POGO	Perognathus parvus	Pocket Gopher		
BTJR	Lepus californicus	Black-tailed Jackrabbit		
CORA	Sylvilagus nuttallii	Cottontail Rabbit		
Coyote	Canis latrans	Coyote		
Badger	Taxidea taxus	Badger		
MUDE	Odocoileus hemionus	Mule Deer		

